

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of equipment management and identifying assets for a sports team comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving equipment;
- b) affixing a barcode to said equipment;
- c) identifying said equipment by scanning said barcode with a scanning device;
- d) classifying said equipment by equipment group;
- e) turning a group flag on for a potential asset group;
- f) issuing said equipment;
- g) assigning said equipment to an individual profile;
- h) turning an individual flag on for an asset-creating individual profile;
- i) recording the return of said equipment after an asset-creating event;
- j) recording the usage, in said asset-creating event, of said equipment;
- k) turning an event flag on for equipment used in said asset-creating event;
- l) determining if said equipment is now an asset by checking for a group flag, an individual flag and an event flag;
- m) deactivating said asset.

2. (Original) A method of equipment management and identifying assets for a sports team comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving equipment;
- b) affixing a barcode to said equipment;
- c) identifying said equipment by scanning said barcode with the scanning device;
- d) classifying said equipment into a plurality of equipment groups wherein at least one of said equipment groups is a potential asset group;
- e) turning the asset flag on for said potential asset group;
- f) issuing said equipment;
- g) assigning said equipment to an individual profile;

- h) turning the flag off for equipment assigned to a non-asset-creating individual profile;
- i) recording the return of said equipment after an asset-creating event;
- j) recording the usage of said equipment in said asset-creating event;
- k) determining if said equipment is now an asset by checking for an asset flag turned on and use in an asset-creating event; and
- l) deactivating said asset.

3. (Original) An improved method of managing equipment using an equipment management system capable of detecting a portable unique identifier attached to a piece of equipment and maintaining a database of individuals and the equipment issued to the individuals, the system further capable of classifying equipment into equipment groups and individuals into asset creating individuals and non-asset creating individuals the improved method comprising the steps of: in the equipment management system,

- a) flagging a piece of equipment assigned to an asset-creating individual;
- b) documenting the occurrence of an asset-creating event; and
- c) designating said piece of equipment an asset.

4. (Original) An improved method of managing equipment using an equipment management system, according to claim 3, further comprising: a) making information on the occurrence of the asset-creating event as set forth in step b) retrievable through the Internet.

5. (Original) An improved method of managing equipment using an equipment management system, according to claim 4, wherein the step of making information on the occurrence of the asset-creating event retrievable through the Internet comprises:

- e) obtaining the unique identification of the equipment; and
- f) matching the unique identification of the equipment with provenance information associated with the unique identification through the Internet.

Claims 6-20 (cancelled).

21. (New) A method of equipment management, comprising:
associating a unique identifier on an item of equipment with the item of equipment in a database;
storing the item of equipment in an equipment inventory;
issuing the item of equipment for use during an event;
changing the value of a flag in the database to indicate that the item of equipment has been issued for use during the event, where the flag is associated with the event; and
recording the occurrence of an asset-creating event associated with the item of equipment during the event in the database.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising recording the return of the item of equipment after the asset-creating event.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein changing the value of the flag in the database to indicate that the item of equipment has been issued for use during the event, where the flag is associated with the event further comprises changing the value of a time and a date in a game profile to indicate that the item of equipment has been issued for use during a game.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein associating the unique identifier on the item of equipment with the item of equipment in the database comprises:
creating an identification mechanism that incorporates data that is associated with a type of inventory item in advance; and
affixing the identification mechanism to the item of equipment.

25. (New) An equipment management system comprising:
a detector reading a unique identifier attached to an item of equipment;
a database storing the unique identifier and associating the unique identifier with the item of equipment;

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an inventory system storing inventory data when the item of equipment is placed in inventory;

a check-out system storing check-out data when the item of equipment is retrieved from inventory, the check-out data including data that identifies an event associated with the use of the item of equipment; and

a check-in system storing check-in data when the item of equipment has been returned after the event.

26. (New) The system of claim 25 wherein the check-in system stores item destroyed data when the item of equipment has been destroyed during the event.

27. (New) The system of claim 25 further comprising an event data system associating event data with the item of data in the database.

28. (New) The system of claim 25 further comprising a game profile system associating game profile data with the item of equipment in the database after the check-out system stores check-out data in the database.

29. (New) The system of claim 25 further comprising a verification system allowing a user to verify the unique identifier, the check-out data and the check-in data over an Internet connection.